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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • May 2017

Honors students celebrate end of semester with annual picnic

By HEATHER BARKER

As the semester comes to a close, the Honors College hosted its annual end of the year picnic at Ritter Park April 20 where students were able to play games, eat and win prizes.

The picnic was planned and hosted by the Honors College Student Association Steering Committee, which is in charge of hosting educational and social events and planning service projects in order to create fellowship amongst Honors College students outside of the classroom.

"It's kind of a tradition with the Honors College," said Kristen Brown, president of the Honors College Student Association Steering Committee and junior biology major. "They've had it every year and I've been at it every year, so I thought it would be really cool to add a little bit of our own style and make it a field day event."

In previous years, the event consisted of only eating, socializing and some prizes, but this year the Steering Committee decided to have activities like a corn hole tournament, a potato sack race and a water balloon toss.

"I think it was pretty cool to see everyone participating in the field day events because in previous years a lot of people just sat around and socialized, which was really cool, but to actually get everyone out having fun together, I think that was really neat," Brown said.

The Honors College is collecting non-perishable foods and hygiene items for the Huntington City Mission through the end of the semester, so the Steering Committee offered an in-



HEATHER BARKER

Honors students participate in field day games at the annual Honors College picnic.

centive to attendees to receive a better chance of winning a prize by bringing items to the picnic.

Prizes were bought by the Steering Committee with money they had raised through various fundraisers throughout the year. Some options were gift cards to local restaurants, Honors College t-shirts, chargers and stickers.

"My favorite part was the fact that we could just be out here, and the free food was definitely one of the highlights," freshman political science major Jeremiah Parlock said. "I liked everyone getting together and actually being a community and doing some fun stuff."



Honors Convocation celebrates graduating Honors students

By ALLY LAWHON

On Friday, April 28, sons and daughters of Marshall gathered for the annual Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation. The Joan C. Edwards Playhouse hosted the celebrated Honors students, as well as friends, family and Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert.

Gilbert, the evening's first speaker, congratulated the students and spoke of his undergraduate experience with the Honors program.

Honors College Dean Nicola Lo-Cascio introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Brandi Jacobs-Jones. Jacobs-Jones is the senior vice president for operations and chief of staff at Marshall University.

Jacobs-Jones defined what it means to be a good steward and spoke of many organizations gearing toward the improvement for the city of Huntington.

"Everyone is given a basket of gifts, talents and experiences," Jacobs-Jones said.

Intuit Design for Delight, Brown Bag Lunches and the improvement of Smith Music Hall are a few of the notable works she mentioned in her speech. The students were encouraged to use their education and knowledge to go forth and practice good stewardship.

"Take a breath, appreciate it and think: what next?" Jacobs-Jones said.

The celebrated Honors students walked across the stage to accept their awards and to experience the congratulations of the evening.

Yeager scholar reflects on study abroad experience in France

By KATHLEEN STEADMAN

Studying abroad has a host of benefits. Students given the opportunity would agree that studying and living in a foreign country has given them a new perspective and opened the doors to personal and academic growth.

Ben Jones, a Yeager scholar studying mathematics at Marshall University, is currently abroad in Lyon, France. Despite studying business in France, Jones said he believes the study abroad experience has taught him more than he could have learned any other way.

"The biggest help to my studies has been interacting with students from around the world," Jones said. "Seeing

how they approach school and learning has taught me more about how I learn than anything else."

It is no secret that traveling to new and exciting places can create friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

"The most memorable part of the trip ... was that two Americans could have a conversation in French with an Italian woman who thought we were German," Jones said.

Even though studying abroad is an adventure, Jones said it is not without its struggles.

"The hardest part has been not knowing the language," Jones said. "It is, however, a rewarding challenge.

Struggling to communicate with someone is worth the effort because the feeling one gets when one finally understands another — and when another finally understands oneself — after missteps and mistakes is unlike any other feeling."

Despite being approximately 4,273 miles away from home, Jones said he can't help but be surprised by "... the sameness of it all ... it seems as though we — all of humanity — have much more in common than we trick ourselves into believing. We all want and strive for the same things, and we all find happiness in the little things that make us human."

Upcoming scholarships and fellowships

By LIZ ADAMS

Honors College students are encouraged to apply for scholarships and fellowships for graduate programs. For this year, most deadlines have passed for the 2017-2018 school year, but incoming seniors can begin looking at scholarships to apply for next year.

Mallory Carpenter, program manager of national scholarships at the Honors College, has several tips for those considering applying for scholarships and fellowships.

She said she encourages anyone considering applying for scholarships to begin thinking about them now.

Even though the deadlines for many are several months away, thinking about them far in advance can have many advantages.

Beginning now instead of at the beginning of the fall semester can give a great deal of time to properly address them. **Continued on page 5.**

Yeager Class of 2021 announced

By KATHLEEN STEADMAN

This year's Yeager Scholars, the Kinzer Class of 2021, has been announced and a diverse group of students have been selected.

As those in the Honors College are aware, Yeager scholars are students selected from high school based on character and academic achievement. Those selected are then awarded a full scholarship to Marshall University and the opportunity to attend a summer study program in Oxford, England.

In addition to the academic opportunities, students receive full room and

board, stipends for books, a laptop, opportunities to travel abroad and personal support from past scholars.

Here are the students in the Kinzer Class of 2021, their hometowns, their high schools and their majors:

- Alexis Adkins, Proctorville, Ohio; Fairland High School; Political Science
- Jordyn Bryson, Barboursville, West Virginia; Cabell Midland High School; Mathematics
- Erica Burns, Culloden, West Virginia; Hurricane High School; Biology and Statistics

- Scott Davis, Ranger, West Virginia; Lincoln County High School; Environmental Science

- Bouthiana Fathallah, Charleston, West Virginia; George Washington High School; Biology – Pre-med
- Lily Jurskis, Jupiter, Florida; Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, Florida; English Literature

- Grace Reed, Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center; International Affairs

- Olivia Rogers, Huntington, West Virginia; Huntington High School; Engineering and Spanish.

Seminar students host Honors Comic Con for second year

By LUCA BRAMBILLA

Thursday, April 13 was an exciting day for the Honors College. After a semester spent analyzing how comic books depict mental health and illnesses, the students of Dr. April Fugett's and Britani Black's "Heroes and Villains of Health Care" seminar had the opportunity to present their findings to the Marshall community at the 2017 Honors Comic Con.

"One of the things we wanted to do is actually make our students experience the Comic Con without having to attend the actual one," Black said. "So, they have the opportunity to host their mini version of a Comic Con."

While last year's edition was hosted in the basement of the Memorial Student Center, this year's Comic Con presenters showed their work upstairs in the Don



LUCA BRAMBILLA

The Honors seminar, "Heroes and Villains of Health Care," hosted its second Honors Comic Con April 13.

Morris Room. In addition, the invited audience was far more diverse, and a lot more advertising was prepared.

"We invite friends of ours from our department, from the Psychology Department, as well as other health professions, and everybody who likes comics and related things," Black said.

The event was attended by several students from a variety of majors and colleges, with one big interest in common. However, what mostly contributed to the positive audience feedback was the amazing work that all the students did.

"For their final assignment for the class they have to do

an art project," Black said. "They choose a book from the banned comics list, and they pull out any potential health care or psychology themes. Finally, they create an artwork based on it and present it."

In addition to seminar students, graduate students and professors from the Psychology Department had their own stands and exhibits, and related their background with comic book characters in a very fascinating way. Just like the actual Comic Con, most students were dressed up as cosplays, and ranged from dinosaurs to Breaking Bad's Walter White.

All the final projects were very successful, and ranged from research papers on how addiction affects superheroes, to an in-depth study of gender and sexual identity. Every team of students created a

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Honors seminar students host 'Stigma of Disease' fair

By AUSTIN CREEL
From The Parthenon

There are countless disorders and diseases that carry stigma, but the social consequences of those stigmas are often determined by the affliction itself than the person who carries it. In the basement of the Memorial Student Center, visitors were invited to experience these stigmas as if affected by them during the "Stigma of Disease" fair April 24. The event was sponsored by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, as well as the Honors College.

"The Stigma Fair is hoping to bring awareness to people with medical conditions for which they are shamed or blemished in some way, through no fault of their own," said Dr. Maggie Stone, a sociology professor at Marshall whose Honors class, "Stigma of Disease," presented the event.

Honors students stood by and presented visitors with their respective booths that examined different diseases such as cancer, mental disorders and HIV. Stone said the objective of the fair was to shine a light on the stigmas people place on those afflicted by disease. Another purpose for the event was to raise awareness for the Honors students so that, as professionals, they avoid stigmatizing. Stone used cancer as an example of social stigmas.

"Different kinds of cancers illicit different



RYAN FISCHER / FROM THE PARTHENON

(From left) Randy and Caryn Short listen to Grayce Behnke and Deben Shoup elaborate on their project on cancer stigma during the "Stigma of Disease" fair inside the Memorial Student Center.

responses based on personal responsibility," Stone said. "People who have lung cancer are often more shamed and blamed. People assume they are smokers, and that's not always the case."

"A big definition of stigma is having an 'us,' which is the conforming group, and people who are non-conforming being the 'them,'" said Cameron Cottrill, a biology and pre-med student who based his booth around skin diseases, which often provide a visual mark to people who have been afflicted.

The booths came with interactive games and features that invited visitors to experience the stigma that is associated with the disease of their choice.

"We're trying to simulate what it's like to live with HIV," economics major Alex O'Donnell said. O'Donnell's booth invited visitors to a short series of challenges, such as hopscotch and a brief quiz, made more difficult if participants were assigned to have HIV and whether they were on treatment for it.

"We tried to make a bunch of daily life activities and make it where the person with HIV and no medication has the most hassle," O'Donnell said. "But the person without HIV has nothing at all, and can live life without stigma."

O'Donnell said an additional stigma with HIV is that it is seen as a consequence of "sexual deviancy

or drug use."

Mental disorders were one of the other kinds of diseases that's stigma was assessed by the students.

The stigma for a mental disorder is "a little bit different," Kristen Brown, a biology student at Marshall, said. "It's not as obvious when someone might have anxiety or depression, and some people see it as if they might not actually have these disorders."

"They might think that they're not really sick," added Tyler Bowman, a chemistry major. "People might think that with mental disorders you should just be able to tough it out and you shouldn't need medication."

"Emotional and mental
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dress all parts of the application. It will also give more time to edit and revise applications to make them the best they can possibly be.

Carpenter said she encourages anyone even considering a scholarship to apply. Anyone who meets the overall prerequisites is qualified to apply.

Mallory also said many scholarships do not have that many applicants, especially from Marshall, just because students just do not think that they have a chance, when in reality they do.

There are multiple scholarships and fellowships up for grabs every year. Some of the more well-known scholarships include the Fulbright Scholarship, Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Hertz Fellowship, Knight-Hennessy Scholars, the Marshall Scholarship and the Rhodes Scholarship.

For more information about scholarships or fellowships, contact Mallory Carpenter by email at Mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu.

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visual aid for their presentation, and used it as a way to emphasize their message.

While this is only its second year, the Honors Con has proven to be a quickly growing event with a lot of potential for future development. Although the event started as an experimental final project, there is the hope that the research prompted by it will lead to a future trip to the actual Comic Con, something that already happened two years ago.

"We want to. It's a long process

and we need to be approved to potentially go," Black said. "We are looking into it, and we hope to go in the future."

Although Black will have an internship next semester, the hope is that the Honors Con will grow and expand into a bigger event on campus, starting even from next year. While not everybody may be interested in comic books, the Honors Con proved that there is a way to successfully connect art, science and pop culture together, and create an exciting and dynamic environment.

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pain can be more devastating than physical pain because it's harder to find the cause of and to treat it," Bowman said.

Bowman and Brown's booth asked visitors to write out how they deal with anxiety on wearable notecards.

Visitors at the event were also giv-

en the opportunity to wear stickers, where they could write a stigma they feel has affected their personal life.

Stone said she hopes visitors of the fair learned that "we can increase our awareness and sensitivity, and treat persons who experience these kinds of disorders with compassion and dignity."

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credit hour.**